

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated March 19, 2008. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite and/or clarify the features of recited therein, to overcome the claim objections, and to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable into the respective independent claims. No new matter has been added, and the amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. The discussion/arguments provided below reference the claims in their amended form.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that the original independent claims and their dependent claims, as originally presented, are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. The present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of subject matter indicated as allowable over the references. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 7 of the Office Action, Examiner states that Claims 2-6, 11, 13-15 and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank Examiner for the favorable disposition of these claims. Applicants have amended the independent Claims 1, 12, and 16 to now recite allowable features from their respective dependent claims 2, 13, and 17 (each now canceled). The incorporation of allowable subject matter in the independent claims places all claims in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request Examiner extend the allowance to include all pending claims.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

In the present Office Action, Claims 2-6, 11, 13-15 and 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As noted above, Applicants have canceled Claims 2, 13 and 17, and provided allowable subject matter within each base claim. The amendments overcome the claim objections, and also place the claims in condition for allowance.

DOUBLE PATENTING

On page 7 of the present Office Action, Claims 1, 7-9, 12 and 16 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 4, and 13 of U.S. Patent No 7,137,041. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This filing overcomes the double patenting rejection and places the claims in condition for allowance.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended the claim to now recite all features in definite form. The amendment overcomes the §112 rejection, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in light of the amendment.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Marwaha (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0181685). As noted above, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter into each independent claim, thus overcoming the present 102 rejections.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the present Office Action, Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marwaha in view of Musman (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0126501). Claim 7 now depends from allowable independent Claim 1. Claim 7 is therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by amending the claims to overcome claim objections and by incorporating allowable subject matter in each independent claim, thus also overcoming the §§ 112, 102 and 103 rejections. Applicants have also filed a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. The filing of the terminal disclaimer along with the claim amendments overcome all statutory rejections of the claims and place the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicants further respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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